

Otto S. Muntz

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came to Lee County from New York state in about 1850. After receiving his elementary education in the Lee County schools, he attended S. C. Howe's Academy in Mt. Pleasant; following his graduation he remained for a time as an instructor in the school. His higher education was received in the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1897. His professional training was obtained in the Kent College of Law, Chicago, which he completed in 1899. Settling immediately afterwards in Ottumwa, Iowa, to practice law, he was soon elected to two terms as police judge, 1901-05. A lifelong democrat, in 1906 he was a successful candidate for the state senate from the seventeenth district. Most prominent among his measures sponsored during his four years in the Iowa senate was the "Moon Law," which restricted the number of saloons in any town or community to not more than one for every one thousand inhabitants. In 1910 he made an unsuccessful contest to secure the democratic nomination for Governor of Iowa, losing to Claude R. Porter. By the quirks of fate and politics, he later served as an assistant United States Attorney under Mr. Porter from 1914-18. In the last year he was appointed to the position of United States Attorney, from which he resigned in 1922. For a brief month he served a second time in that capacity upon the death of his successor, in 1924. In June, 1934, he served as United States District Attorney when he was appointed to that position by the President. He was serving in that capacity when he died.

A member of the Wapello County, the Iowa State, and the American Bar Associations, he was a member of the Episcopalian Church, serving as Chancellor of the Iowa Diocese of that church.

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OTTO S. MUNTZ, automobile dealer and Advisory Chairman of the Greater Iowa Commission, died February 2, 1939, as the result of an automobile accident which had previously taken the life of his wife. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Muntz, he was born on a Dubuque County farm on July 23, 1896. Educated in the Dubuque city schools, his business career, begun at eighteen years, had been exclusively devoted to the automotive industry and its allied lines, Mr. Muntz having served at various times the International Harvester Company, the Mack International Truck Co., and the Autocar Company.

Based upon his observations and experiences as a salesman, Mr. Muntz became convinced of the value to the state of a "Sell Iowa" program. From this idea grew the Greater Iowa Commission created by the 47th General Assembly and of which Mr. Muntz was the first Chairman. The Greater Iowa Commission's brief career, its functions and performances have frequently been the subject of debate. He believed that Iowa needed first to be sold to its own people, and secondly the advantages of the state sold to the nation. At the time of his death Mr. Muntz was serving the commission as advisory chairman.

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